

SALINA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
--MEETING MINUTES--
Meeting Room 105
April 11, 2006

Commissioners Present

Brenda Faram Richard Frye
Arthur Jordan Jan Mendell
Maribel Panuco

Commissioners Absent

Sidney Gray Sharon Kibbe
Gina McDonald Allen Smith

Staff Present

Kaye Crawford, Director
Sandra Beverly, Equal Opportunity Specialist
Dina Giron, Human Relations Specialist

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Vice Chairman Frye called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Director Crawford was requested to take roll call.

CITIZEN FORUM

Vice Chairman Frye stated there was no citizens present for presentation or to ask questions of the Salina Human Relations Commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chairman Frye called for approval of the agenda with the addition under new business with the discussion of the Housing Authority "no pets" policy. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Commissioner Arthur Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Jan Mendell. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chairman Frye called for approval of the minutes for March Meeting. Commissioner Jan Mendell moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Arthur Jordan seconded the motion. The full Commission carried the motion to approve the March minutes as written.

DIRECTOR REPORT

LULAC State Convention

Director Crawford reported that the LULAC State Convention was on April 1, 2006 at Friendship Center. Commissioner Panuco confirmed her participation in this event and stated that around 30 people attended it, most were from out of town. Commissioner Panuco also reported that Mr. Ralf Mondone from the Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division of the Attorney General's office presented good information about preventing identity theft, what to do if your identity is stolen, avoiding Rip-offs and sales scams, and consumer complaint forms. The afternoon session was only for LULAC members

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Womens History Luncheon

Director Crawford reported that the Womens History Luncheon was a successful event in which 84 citizens (Women and Men) participated. The Executive Director of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, Donna Cavitte, did an excellent presentation about "Women in Government".

Saline County Fair Housing Observance

The Saline County Commissioners did a Fair Housing Proclamation in celebration of Fair Housing Month. Also in collaboration with the Human Relation Department they set up a Fair Housing Exhibit on the main floor. A Proclamation was read by Commissioner Frye at the April 3rd City Commission.

Fair Housing Seminar

The Salina Human Relations Fair Housing Seminar will be on Friday, April 28, 2006 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. A flyer was provided for each commissioner.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

The Cinco de Mayo celebration will be on May 5, 2006 at Heartland Programs. Melinda Lewis from El Centro, Inc, Kansas City will provide an overview of proposals for immigration reforms. The Human Relations Department is supporting this activity and Commissioner Panuco extended the invitation to all Commissioners to participate in it. The HRC also is planning to run an advertisement for this event.

USD 305 Meeting

The EOS, Sandra Beverly, reported that the NAACP sent out an invitation letter to their members to attend the Board of Education District 305 meeting scheduled for April 11, 2006 to encourage the addition of African American teachers to their staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Response to Racial Incidents

Commissioner Mendell summarized what happened between the Hispanics and Black students during the last few weeks in Salina as was reported in the newspaper. Sandra Beverly stated that she had heard there were some racial name-calling from those who did not participate in the Hispanic march also.

Director Crawford stated that she had included this topic in the agenda at the request of Chairwoman McDonald. Since Chairwoman McDonald was not present, Director Crawford stated that it was up to the commission whether or not they wanted to respond. Commissioner Jordan stated that any response in this matter would be better than not doing anything. Director Crawford suggested that the Commission Position

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Statement that was written by a committee during the work on Hate Crimes Response could be re-written and published in the newspaper as a response from the Human Relation Commission.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to approve a re-write of the Commission Position Statement and published as a response to recent racial incidents. Commissioner Mendell stated she would second the motion if it was amended to include the statement be reviewed and approved by the Chairwoman before it was published. Commissioner Jordan amended his motion to include review by the Chair, the motion was seconded by Jan Mendell and carried by vote of the commission. Commissioner Frye and Commissioner Jordan offered to be available for a rewrite of that document.

Housing Authority Discussion

Commissioner Mendell stated that the Housing Authority is considering a "no pets" policy and that the Housing Authority Board will table the matter until the April 20th meeting. A copy of the news article was presented to the Commissioners. In anticipation of an action by the Commission, a proposed letter (a copy of the letter was provided for commissioners) was offered for Commission approval. Commissioner Faram stated that she knew of several nursing homes who utilize pets to comfort people and that she believes pets assist people. After review of the proposed letter, Commissioner Mendell requested to study Paragraph 6 in which she preferred to take out the last sentence referring to service animals. She stated she believed the Housing Authority is well aware of their responsibilities regarding service animals under the Fair Housing Law. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Panuco made a motion to approve the letter with the amendment to Paragraph 6, and Commissioner Faram seconded the motion. The motion carried. The letter will be sent to the board members of the Salina Housing Authority.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports

Expanded Jurisdiction: Vice Chairman Frye reported he met with the Saline County Commission on a different matter. While meeting with them he brought up the issue of expanded jurisdiction and said that one of the commissioners stated they were waiting for some action from the Human Relations Commission. Commissioner Jordan asked for explanation regarding Expanded Jurisdiction. Commissioner Frye explained what had gone on at previous meetings. Director Crawford stated that the County would need to send some funding to the department if we were to expand our jurisdiction since that would include increased travel for investigations out in the county and that would incur expense.

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Annual Community Award for Civil Rights: Director Crawford reported that the City of Olathe has a web site in which they offer a two-page qualification form for community awards and that she would like provide a copy of this form to Commissioner Gray for any future action on a civil rights award.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission went into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss the docket. Commission commenced regular session at 6:55 p.m.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NAACP monthly meeting will be on April 23, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at 210 W. Woodland.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Richard Frye, Vice Chairman

Kaye J. Crawford, Secretary